

**STATE ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON
PROBLEM GAMBLING &
ADDICITON SERVICES**

August 9, 2005, 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.
Holiday Inn Downtown
Niobrara Room
141 North 9th Street, Lincoln, NE

Commission Members Present: John Atherton, Janet French, Sherrie Geier, Steven Jung, Lynda Lakin, Tom Nutt, Kate Speck, Dick Stalker

Commission Members Absent: Wayne Choat, Theo Hudson, Lisa Jones, Brenda Wagner

HHS Staff Present: Gordon Tush, Linda Jensen, Laurie Sutter-Prevention Manager of Div of BH Services, Barb Thomas-Assistant Director of BH Services

Guests Present: Jerry Bauerkemper, Nebraska Council on Compulsive Gambling-Director
Deb Hammond, Choices-Director

CALL TO ORDER

Sherrie Geier, Chairperson of the State Advisory Committee on Problem Gambling conducted the meeting. She called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m. Since quorum was not present, the agenda was moved to reports to be presented for information only purposes.

Introductions/Welcome

Sherrie Geier welcomed all members and guests present.

REPORTS

I. Report from May 10th BH Council

- Wayne Choat was not present to report on this item. Gordon and Sherrie reported that a process for preparing committee reports to the Council was discussed and approved.
- The BH Council is required by statute to prepare an annual report to the governor and the Legislature. Each committee was asked to prepare a list of items they would like to have included in their portion of the report. The report will be addressed later in this agenda.

II. Legislative Report

- LB332 was amended by Senator Jensen to transfer funds from the healthcare cash fund and was passed (attached).
- It provides the Gamblers Assistance Program with \$250,000 additional money for each of the next two years allowing \$225,000 for services and \$25,000 for administration.
- Gordon suggested this is the time for this committee to start planning now to obtain continuation funding after the two years.
- Senator McDonald put tremendous effort into supporting LB 332 and Gordon suggested this committee send her a thank you letter to acknowledge her efforts.

III. LB 551 Requirements

- This bill requires the appointment of three consumers to each committee. Two of the consumers must also serve on the Behavioral Health Council.
- Consumers must be primary consumers, present or past, not family members of consumers.
- Right now this committee has one member who is a consumer.
- Over time the membership of this committee needs to fulfill the requirements of LB551.
- A second consumer will be sought to fill the vacancy created by Lisa Jones' resignation.

ATTENDANCE - DETERMINATION OF QUORUM

Linda Jensen called the roll of members and determined that a quorum was present.

Sherrie Geier, Chairperson called the meeting to order

APPROVAL OF MAY 10, 2005 MINUTES

By general consent the minutes for the May 10, 2005 meeting (attached) were approved as presented.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Sherrie asked if there were any additions or corrections to the agenda (attached). Gordon Tush asked for flexibility on an agenda item on the Program Gambling Spring Conference, as Jerry Bauerkemper will be arriving later and reporting on that agenda item. By general consent the agenda was approved.

RECOGNITION OF GUESTS

Sherrie Geier recognized guests present today.

REPORTS

I. Status of Recruitment for Program Manager

- Two applicants were interviewed but neither was offered the position.
- The position has been re-opened from August 2, 2005 to September 2, 2005 and advertised nationally to attract applicants with problem gambling experience.
- Barb Thomas provided the job description (attached) for review by the members.
- There will also be a job opening for a program specialist for Problem Gambling Program after the manager position has been filled.

II. Program Reports

- Gordon Tush explained expenditures from FY05 and past years outlined in handouts (attached).
- Gordon Tush explained the Helpline trends (attached).
- Jerry Bauerkemper has more detailed data available concerning Helpline calls.

III. Prevention Report

- Laurie Sutter provided information concerning the Protective Risk Factor Survey.
 - A handout was provided (attached).
 - Nebraska schools 6 through 12th grades were included in this survey.
 - The survey included specific questions about gambling habits.
 - Laurie said that additional funding will be needed if the survey is to be conducted in the future.
- She provided an announcement (attached) about the First Annual Prevention Leadership Institute to be held November 7-8, 2005 at the Embassy Suites Hotel in Lincoln, NE.

IV. Midwest Conference Update

- Jerry Bauerkemper provided a brochure (attached) on the Midwest Conference on Problem Gambling and Substance Abuse to be held August 24-26, 2005 in Kansas City, MO.
- He said Prairieland ATTC has done an outstanding job coordinating the conference.

V. Proposed FY06 Budget

- Gordon Tush provided handouts (attached) to explain the FY06 budget.
- The proposed addition of three new initiatives (prevention, program evaluation and a counseling voucher program) will influence categorical fund allocation.
- Gordon suggested lowering the annual cash balance carryover.

A MOTION was made by Janet French to approve the budget for FY05. The MOTION was SECONDED. A ROLL CALL VOTE was taken. The MOTION carried.

NEW BUSINESS

I. New "Initiatives" - Jerry Bauerkemper

- Jerry Bauerkemper reported that the Nebraska Council on Problem Gambling is setting up voucher and data collection systems for the Problem Gambling Program.
- Six counseling sessions will be provided through a voucher system to encourage problem gamblers to participate in a treatment program.
- Utilization of the voucher card through the providers will generate a data collection system.
- Certain protocol criteria concerning the problem gambler's motivation for treatment will need to be met before voucher cards are issued.
- Jerry is available for questions by phone or email.

BREAK

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

I. Review of Motions Made at May 10, 2005 Meeting and Formal Approval Regarding FY05 Funding Alternatives

A MOTION was made by Janet French to approve the motions that were made at the May 10, 2005 meeting. The first MOTION was made by Dick Stalker to have at least \$300,000 in the cash fund as of July 1, 2005. The second MOTION was made by Wayne Choat to increase the current total allocation for FY05 contracts to not exceed \$100,000. The MOTION was SECONDED. A ROLL CALL VOTE was taken. The MOTION carried.

NEW BUSINESS

I. Prevention Activities

- Gordon asked members for input on possible prevention activities and ideas for program evaluations.
- Barb Thomas suggested that the new program manager may work with Laurie Sutter to include problem gambling in prevention systems that are already being developed in Nebraska.
- Sherrie Geier suggested that Gordon Tush and other Division of Behavioral Health Services staff prepare a description of how the evaluation process and the prevention plan would be designed and implemented. The Division's recommendations will be presented for approval at the Problem Gambling Advisory Committee meeting on November 8, 2005.
- Barb Thomas stated that, if the Division needs to initiate planning before the November 8, 2005 meeting, she would like to communicate with and receive feedback from this committee, in order to move the process forward in a timely manner.
- Sherrie Geier mentioned that she would like to make sure the direction of the youth prevention piece is focused on the outcomes of the Risk and Protective Factors Survey.
- Janet French said she would like any extra problem gambling funding to be used for youth prevention activities.
- If creating the evaluation and/or prevention plans requires an Request for Proposal (RFP), or if the current evaluator of the prevention program is not available, the Division staff may initiate the RFP process before the November 8, 2005 meeting.

A MOTION was made by Tom Nutt that the Division of Behavioral Health Services staff develop a plan for selecting appropriate persons and begin the implementation process for the prevention and evaluation programs. The MOTION was SECONDED. A ROLL CALL VOTE was taken. The MOTION carried.

- If the Division of Behavioral Health Services staff move ahead on this process, they will communicate in writing with Committee members.
- The Division of Behavioral Health Services staff will report on the status of this process at the November 8, 2005 Problem Gambling Advisory Committee.

II. Appointments to Committee - Consumer Representation

- Gordon provided handouts on the current members of the committee (attached).
- He reported that since the passage of LB 551, this committee is required to have three primary consumers in its membership
- Lisa Jones has formally resigned from the committee, which leaves one vacancy.
- Currently, one member of the committee is a consumer.
- Immediate compliance with LB 551 is not required. The committee can demonstrate its intent to comply through the meeting minutes.
- Barb Thomas agreed with Sherrie Geier that this committee would meet compliance expectations if a consumer is sought to fill the vacancy created by Lisa Jones' resignation, and the committee states its intention to fill the next vacancy with a consumer.
- A consideration when seeking consumers for the committee is that two of the consumers will also be required to serve on the Behavioral Health Council. This requirement creates an obligation to attend four full-day meetings each year.

A MOTION was made by Kate Speck that the intentions of the committee is to seek a consumer to fill its current vacancy and then continue to try to identify a person/persons who would be willing to fill a term by the time the next round of terms expire. The MOTION was SECONDED. A ROLL CALL VOTE was taken. The MOTION carried.

III. Annual Report to Governor and Legislature

- Contents for Problem Gambling Committee Section, (attached for suggested topics to be included).
- Barb clarified and explained the intentions of the BH Council.
 - The annual report the BH Council requires from the committee does not replace the Nebraska Gamblers Assistance Program Annual Report
 - The report required by the BH Council involves activities that happen within the Problem Gambling Committee.
 - Barb suggested that the report could include the direction the committee would like the program to go.
 - She said the committee's influence on the passage of LB332 this year is an important item to include in the report, as well as the implementation of expanded services as a result of the additional funding provided in the bill.
 - She said her understanding is that the flip chart information that is submitted to the BH Council today will provide discussion topics.
 - After discussing the flip chart topics from all committees, a draft will be completed and presented to the committees in November.

IV. Committee Structure, Terms of Officers and Bylaws

- Sherrie Geier led the discussion.
 - She said Senator Jensen's letter gives the committees flexibility with the restructuring of the committees within the BH Council.
 - She stated that the BH Council needs to clarify its expectations, so the committees can comply.
 - She is especially concerned about quorum and voting language presently specified in the bylaws, particularly with regard to funding approval.

- Barb Thomas said that the committee's recommendations to the Council need to request procedural directions.
- After receiving recommendations from all committees, the BH Council decide whether or not to forward any or all of the recommendations to the Division Administrator.

PROBLEM GAMBLING COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION TO BY COUNCIL

- **The following recommendations will be present to the BH Council today:**
 1. **Each committee to be given discretion to elect officers conducive to its needs.**
 2. **Each committee be authorized to amend its bylaws.**

NEXT MEETING

The next Problem Gambling Advisory Committee meeting will be held on November 8, 2005 9:00 a. m. to 12:00 p. m. The location of this meeting will be announced at a later date. Committee members are encouraged to attend.

Meeting dates for 2006 are set for February 7, May 9, August 8 and November 7.

ADJOURN

Sherrie asked if there was additional business for the Committee. There being none the meeting was ADJORNED by general consent at 12:45 p.m.

Prepared by Linda L. Jensen, Staff Assistant I, Division of Behavioral Health Services on August 18, 2005.

Approved by _____
 Gordon Tush
 Gamblers Assistance Program Interim Manager
 Division of Behavioral Health Services

Date _____